



**PATENT**

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Appl. No. : 09/805,501 Confirmation No.: 1952  
Applicant : Strathmeyer et al.  
Filed : 3/13/2001  
TC/A.U. : 2151  
Examiner : Van Kim T. Nguyen  
  
Docket No. : 042390.P8943X2  
Customer No. : 08791

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

**REQUEST FOR CONTINUED EXAMINATION (RCE)**  
**AND PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

SIR:

In response to the Final Office Action mailed on March 23, 2005, with the three month shortened statutory period for response set to expire on June 23, 2005, Applicant respectfully submits a Request For Continued Examination (RCE) of the above-referenced application and a Preliminary Amendment. Please consider the following amendments and remarks prior to examination of the above-identified RCE application.

**Amendments to the Claims** are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 2 of this paper.

**Remarks/Arguments** begin on page 9 of this paper.